

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EB-11 DRC-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 /172 W
----- 088868

R 280930Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7108

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY DACCA

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12594

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA XB XP

SUBJ: JAPANESE ASIA AND PACIFIC AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE

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SUMMARY: JAPANESE ASIA AND PACIFIC AMBASSADORS CONFERRED

IN TOKYO SEPT 16-20. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON 1) UTILIZING JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POWER FOR COOPERATION IN ASIA. 2) IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PRC. 3) ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN PROPOSED BY BREZHNEV. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMBASSADORS CONFERRED IN TOKYO SEPT 16-20. FONOFF (RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DIV HAD KATO AND ASIAN REGIONAL AFFAIRS DIV HEAD SAIKI) TOLD EMOOFFS CONFERENCE FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON USING JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POWER TO FOSTER COOPERATION WITH OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES AND TO SERVE JAPANESE POLITICAL GOALS WHICH WERE,; HOWEVER, NOT CLOSELY DENINED.

2. SECOND FOCUS WAS IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PRC, WHICH HAD BEEN MAJOR SUBJECT OF 1972 CONFERENCE. AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED SOME FRUSTRATION WITH SLOW PACE IN DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS SINCE NORMALIZATION ONE YEAR AGO. HOWEVER, FONMIN OHIRA TOLD CONFERENCE THAT STEADY, CAREFUL EFFORT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE JAPAN'S APPROACH TO CHINA, AND HE EXHORTED AMBASSADORS TO PERSEVERE. SEVERAL AMBASSADORS SUPPORTED THESIS THAT IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PRC WOULD ENHANCE JAPAN'S POSITION IN EYES OF SE ASIANS AND THEREBY LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH SE ASIA. KATO AND SAIKI COMMENTED THAT REVERSE IS PROBABLY TRUE: TOO CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA WOULD LEAD SEASIAN NATIONS TO FEAR SINO-JAPANESE HEGEMONISM.

3. THIRD SUBJECT WAS BREZHNEV'S ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN. AMBASSADORS WERE APPARENTLY UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE IN ASSESSING ASIAN RECEPTIVITY TO SOVIET PROPOSAL. PRESS SAID CONFERREES REPORTED MALAYSIA WISHED EXCLUSION OF ALL BIG POWERS FROM AN EXPANDED ASEAN AND THEREFORE OPPOSED PLAN; INDIA REPORTEDLY OPPOSES PLAN AS "HACKNEYED" AND WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IF THERE WERE MILITARY FACETS OR IF IT SEEMED AIMED AT ENCIRCLING CHINA; SRI LANKA ALSO SAID TO OPPOSE IDEA.

4. COMMENT: DOMINANT CONCERNS WHICH EMERGED IN CONFERENCE WERE OHIRA'S PERSONAL STAKE IN MORE RAPID PAY OFF IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS WITH CHINA,
AND GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT
JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POWER PROVIDES NO AUTOMATIC LEVERAGE
ON POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN ASIA.
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